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MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report for the year 1956, and in doing so would point out that although my name appears as presenting the report the year's work was carried out during Dr. Governor's time as Medical Officer of Health. He retired on March 31st, 1957 and it is fitting at this stage to express thanks and appreciation to him for his period of service as, apart from a short break between 1939 and 1943, he has been Medical Officer of Health to this Council since 1933.

A report from the Public Health Inspector is also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

P. HERDMAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

(i) Public Health Committee Chairman - M. Robinson, Esq.
Messrs.
Councillors: J. S. Collingwood,
 T. H. Ellingham, A. E.
 Morton, H. W. Papworth,
 V. R. C. Phillips and
 E. Smith.

(ii) Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B.Ch.
Public Health Inspector - H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

(iii) General Statistics

Area in acres	19,777
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate for 1956)	13,190
Number of inhabited houses	4,296
Rateable Value.	£148,232
Amount represented by ld. rate	£595.14.6d.

The estimated population shows an increase of 30 on the 1955 figure.

(iv) Vital Statistics

Table I - Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	84	90	174
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	86	92	178

The birth rate is 13.49 per 1,000 population and is slightly below the birth rate for England and Wales which is 15.7. In 1955 the birth rate in the district was 14.89 compared with 15.0 for England and Wales.

Table II - Still Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	5	4	9

The rate for still births is 50.56 per 1,000 births compared with 23.0 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	1	2

The infantile mortality rate is 11.23 per 1,000 live births compared with 23.8 for England and Wales. In 1955 the local figure was 10.20 per 1,000 compared with 24.9 for England and Wales.

No deaths were notified from Infantile Diarrhoea during 1956.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	5	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	15	22
Coronary disease, angina	9	5	14
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	2
Other heart diseases	9	15	24
Other circulatory diseases	4	1	5
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Bronchitis	2	5	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	2	3
	56	66	122

The death rate for March in 1956 was 9.24 per 1,000 population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. In 1955 the death rate was 8.81 per 1,000 population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 year	-	1.64
1 - 5 years	-	-
6 - 15 years	-	-
16 - 65 years	-	27.05
66 and over	-	71.31

100.00%

(v) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

Infectious Diseases Notified

Scarlet Fever	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	3
Measles	260
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	6
Non - Pulmonary	1

276

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action was taken under the above Act during 1956.

Typhoid "Carrier".

The typhoid carrier who has been residing here since 1948 has now left the district and the Medical Officer of Health into whose district she has moved has been notified accordingly.

Food Poisoning

The Ministry requests information regarding the number of cases of food poisoning during the year - no cases were reported in the area during 1956.



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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1956.

Public Health Act. Nuisances)									
Housing Act. Disrepair)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	218
Ashes Accommodation	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Accumulations	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	15
Animals or Birds	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cesspools	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Cinemas	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Slaughterhouses	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	990
Knackers Yard	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
Verminous Premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Rats and Mice (including sewers).	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	143
Moveable Dwellings	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Water Supplies	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Food Hygiene.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	187
Food Preparing Premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Fried Fish Shops and Stalls.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	52
Dairies.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	33
Ice Cream Premises	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27
Shops Acts	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Factories	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	34
Infectious Diseases	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19
Meat Shops	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	14
Sanitary Accommodation.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11
Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Interviews	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	326
Drainage	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	87
Common Lodging House	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13
Pet Animals Act	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
									2,246

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.	Outstanding at the end of 1956.
<u>Drains</u>			
Defective waste pipe	1	-	1
Drains, to be trapped	1	1	-
Blocked drains	17	17	-
Cesspools	7	6	1
Defective sink & drainage	1	-	1
<u>Sanitary Accommodation</u>			
Defective pail closet	4	4	-
" W.C. pedestal	1	-	1
<u>Verminous Infestation</u>			
Rats and Mice	3	3	-
Ants	1	1	-
Cockroaches	1	-	1
<u>Food and Drugs Act</u>			
Name and Address on stall	1	1	-
Smoking in shop	1	1	-
C/fd.	39	34	5

	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.	Outstanding at the end of 1956.
B/fd.	39	34	5
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective roof	12	10	2
" stove	3	1	2
" gutters	1	-	1
" chimney	3	1	2
" door	2	-	2
" plasterwork	2	2	-
" ceiling plaster	3	-	3
" floorboards	1	-	1
Accumulations	5	5	-
Blocked dykes	7	4	3
	78	57	21

TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1956

	Served during 1956	Complied with by 31.12.56
Public Health and Housing Acts.		
Verbal	52	40
Letter	19	10
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.		
Verbal	5	5
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.		
Verbal	1	1
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.		
Verbal	1	1
	78	57

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1956 two undertakings were accepted for carrying out repairs, five Demolition Orders were made and sixteen Closing Orders were also made. Later in the year four of the Closing Orders were subsequently converted into Demolition Orders and the four dwellings have since been demolished.

Three cases of overcrowding were re-housed by the Council during 1956.

DRAINAGE

The subsidiary sewer scheme has now been advertised for tender and it is hoped that the conversion of vaults and pail closets will not be long delayed.

WATER SUPPLY

An extension of the water main in the Whittlesey Road area was commenced during the latter part of 1956 and dwellings were connected during 1957. Comment on this will be made in the Annual Report for 1957. The following is the information required by the Ministry:-

WATER SUPPLY (contd.)

- 1) Whether the water supply of the area and of its parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- 2) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw water, and the results of any analysis. - No samples were taken during the year, but the water is known to be examined at regular intervals by the Water Board.
- 3) The position as to the contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo solvent action.
- 4) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- 5) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from the public water mains. - (a) direct to house - 88%. (b) by means of stand pipes - 10%.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year 22 licences had been issued for moveable dwellings compared with 20 for the previous year. Each site is visited prior to a licence being issued and advice given where difficulties arise, particularly in relation to drainage arrangements.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

Under the above Act, which is enforced by the Council, one registration has been approved, but so far no samples have been taken.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act, and these are subject to inspection by Inspector Sherwood of the R.S.P.C.A. who has been appointed as Honorary Inspector, and myself.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The number of animals killed during the year at the four slaughterhouses is as follows:- 24 cows, 885 other bovines, 1,384 sheep, 4,061 pigs and 36 goats, giving a total of 6,397. This figure is slightly under the total for 1955 which was 6,820. In order to inspect these animals a total of 990 visits were required to the four slaughterhouses and this figure includes 114 evening and week-end visits.

Mention must be made here of the consideration received from the slaughtermen and butchers whose co-operation does facilitate the easier working of a system of meat inspection.

I have been acting on behalf of the Ministry of Food under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for the certification of pigs on a deadweight basis and it is interesting to note that during 1956, although the scheme was not in operation for a few months, some 288 pigs were weighed and 167 certificates issued.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:- 3 cows, 4 other bovines, 2 calves, 14 pigs, total 23 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 4 tons 15 cwts. 3 quarters 22 lbs. and this shows a slight increase from 1955 when the total was 4 tons 7 stone 13 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
from January 1st, 1956 to December 31st, 1956.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	885	24	7	1,384	4,061	-
Number Inspected	885	24	7	1,384	4,061	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	2	2	2	-	13	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	50	7	1	9	36	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	5.87	37.50	42.86	.65	1.21	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	2	1	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	95	-	-	-	73	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	10.96	4.17	-	-	1.82	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	4	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

OTHER FOODS

Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other food stuffs and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption

(1) <u>Miscellaneous</u>	Weight	lbs.	ozs.
Smoked Cod		7	-
Liver		6	-
		13	-

(2) <u>Tinned Goods</u>	<u>No. of Tins</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Ham	2		17	1
Fruit	17		17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Stewed Steak	1			15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Milk	1		2	8
Tomatoes	26		16	15
Pilchards	1			15
Salmon	1			7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Corned Beef	7		22	4
Baked Beans	21		21	-
Dressed Crab	1			1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Minced Chicken	1			1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Luncheon Meat	18		14	5
Jellied Veal	1		6	-
	<hr/> 98 <hr/>		<hr/> 120 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ <hr/>

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued 6 Dealer's licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 7 Dealer's Licences for Pasteurised Milk, 5 Dealer's Licences for Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 4 Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk.

The following samples were taken giving the results as shown:-

Pasteurised Milk

No. of Samples Taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Satisfied Phosphatase Test	Failed Both Tests
20	20	20	-

Tuberculin Tested Milk

No. of Samples Taken	Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	Failed Test
11	9	2

Four samples of Sterilised Milk were taken, all four satisfied the Turbidity Test.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Council are also known to take samples.

In circular 1/54 the Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- 1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	9
Grocery	34
Butchers	18
Fish Shops	12
Bakehouses	5
Confectionery	12
Cafes	4

94

In addition there are some 43 licensed premises including clubs.

- 2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, or under Local Acts, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Premises Registered for Sale of Ice Cream.	32
" " " Preparation of Meat	
" " " Pies and Sausages.	18
" " " Sale of Fish and Chips.	11

See page 8 for Milk Licences issued.

- 3) the number of inspections of registered Food Premises with informative comment as necessary.

Inspections of registered Food Premises and Other Food Shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 4.

- 4) any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.

No clean food guilds have been established.

- 5) the method of disposal of condemned food.

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc., the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the Slaughterhouses is collected by contractors for processing.

- 6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity condemned.

The lists on pages 7 and 8 show the total weight of food condemned.

- 7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1952.

Twenty-six samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The provisional grading of samples was as follows:-

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
23	3	-	-	26

It will be observed that 88.46 of these samples were classified Grade 1 and no samples were found to fall into Grades 3 or 4. At the end of the year 32 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There is one manufacturer in the area.

No samples of Iced Lollies were taken during 1956.

8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

There are some 140 premises in the district to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply and all of these premises were visited during 1956 when the requirements of the Regulations were explained to the occupiers.

RATS AND MICE

Once again comparatively few complaints were received during 1956 of infestation by rats and mice. The refuse dumps are treated regularly and have been kept well under control, evidence of infestation being generally small. The sewers are treated twice a year in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. The Agricultural Executive Committee are known to have many contracts for farms in this area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 50 factories on the Council's register, and 34 visits were paid resulting in 5 nuisances being found.

Form 572 has been completed and forwarded as requested in advance of this report.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON.

Public Health Inspector.

3rd July, 1957.

